

Total cropland.—Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.
Land used for crops.—Cropland harvested and crop failure.
Total pasture.—Cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and pasture other than cropland and woodland.
Total woodland.—Woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

Table 2.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE, PERCENT OF ALL FARMS, MINIMUM VALUE OF PRODUCTS, AND INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1945

[Figures for regions and States in table 16]

YEAR	FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE		Minimum value of products (dollars)	Index numbers of prices received by farmers ¹ (August 1909-July 1914 = 100)
	Number	Percent of all farms		
1945.....	98,966	1.7	250	195
1940.....	55,977	0.6	250	95
1935.....	35,573	0.5	250	90
1930.....	43,007	0.7	250	149
1925.....	15,151	0.2	250	143
1920.....	20,350	0.3	250	215
1910.....	18,053	0.3	250	102
1900.....	41,385	0.7	(³)	(*)
1890.....	(*)	(*)	4500	(*)
1880.....	4,352	0.1	4500	(*)

*Not available.

¹From "Agricultural Statistics, 1945," table 571, United States Department of Agriculture. For 1910, the index number is for that calendar year. For all other years, each index number is for the calendar year preceding the census date. Series revised in 1944.

²Or requiring for its agricultural operations the continuous services of at least one person.

³No minimum limit used in the 1900 Census on value of products. "All agricultural establishments with less than three acres were reported as farms whenever their operation or management required the constant services of at least one individual."

⁴Value of products sold.

Comparability of data.—The statistics for farms in some size-of-farm groups are affected by Census definitions and procedures to an even greater extent than are the over-all totals. (See discussion of "Comparability of data" in chapter I.) Of particular significance are farms which were marginal in respect to the minimum requirements under the Census definition of a farm. For each census for which data have been tabulated by size of farm, the definition has specified that places of less than 3 acres were not to be enumerated as farms unless they met certain criteria as to value of products or, as in the 1910 Census, labor requirement. The number of farms in this size group has varied greatly from census to census. However, this group has been relatively unimportant numerically. In 1945, although more than twice as numerous as at any previous census, farms of less than 3 acres represented only 1.7 percent of the total number of farms. Table 2 presents the number and proportion of farms of under 3 acres for each census from 1880 to 1945 (except 1890, when farms of under 3 acres were not tabulated separately) and the criteria used in each census for determining the inclusion of places as farms. Since the requirements generally included a minimum value of products, index numbers of prices received by farmers, as published by the United States Department of Agriculture, are included to show that, as a result of changes in price level, there have been changes in the amount of produce required to meet the minimum requirements for a farm even when there has been no change in the specified value of products. The index numbers indicate that operations qualifying as farms in the 1945 Census, with a value of products at or near the minimum of \$250, would not have qualified as farms in any of the earlier censuses except that of 1920.

In addition to the effect of price level, the number of farms with limited agricultural operations was also influenced in 1945 by war conditions which greatly encouraged small-sized agricultural operations through the patriotic appeal for victory gardens and the obvious advantages, under a rationing system, of producing foods for family use.

Although the minimum requirements of a farm in respect to the extent of the agricultural operations were specified only for farms of under 3 acres, they may have influenced, to some extent, the enumeration of places of 3 acres and over. Farms with limited agricultural production are not limited to those of under 3 acres. This is indicated by the tabulations of farms by total gross farm income (value of products sold or used by farm households) which are presented in chapter X. In 1945, there were 453,580 farms for which the gross products in 1944 ranged from \$1 to \$249 and, in addition, there were 98,873 farms for which no products were reported as sold or used by the farm household. As there were only 98,966 farms under 3 acres in size, which number included many highly specialized operations, such as greenhouses, nurseries, mushroom cellars, hatcheries, and the like, most of the low income farms must have been 3 acres or more in area. It is probable that a large number of the farms having limited operations were under 10 acres in size, although many larger tracts also had limited agricultural operations. Table 3 presents United States totals for the number of farms of under 10 acres, as reported for the various census years, with separate totals for farms of under 3 acres and farms of 3 to 9 acres.

Changes in the procedure of enumerating Indian reservations affected the statistics by size of farm in a number of instances, particularly in Arizona and New Mexico. In the 1945 Census, if land in an Indian reservation was used by the Indians on a cooperative basis, the entire acreage was reported as a single farm, with no attempt made to segregate the individual operations. However, individual returns were obtained when the Indians carried on their agricultural activities as independent operations. In previous censuses, as a general rule, an attempt was made to obtain returns for each Indian whose agricultural production was sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a farm, with a reservation return to account for acreage used for agricultural purposes that was not allotted or assigned to Indians or not leased to others. Under these circumstances, the returns for the individual Indians often represented a more or less arbitrary assignment of acreage, or the operations were reported with "no land owned or leased." (See table 5.) Procedures varied from one reservation to another and results were not always comparable from one census to another.

Items for earlier censuses which are not strictly comparable with those shown for the 1945 Census are shown below:

Plowable pasture, for 1924 to 1939, includes land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating and differs from cropland used only for pasture for 1944 in that it includes land which may not have been plowed within 7 years preceding the census date.

Pasture other than plowable and woodland, for 1924 to 1934, differs from "pasture other than cropland and woodland" for 1944 in the same absolute amount that "plowable pasture" differs from "cropland used only for pasture." Data are not available for 1939.

Land available for crops, for 1924 to 1939, includes cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

Improved land, for 1925 to 1920, in general, included land regularly tilled or mowed, land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc.

Farms reporting.—The number of farms for which a specific item was reported. For example, of the 7,152 farms of 10,000 acres and over in the United States in 1945, only 4,403 reported a crop of some kind harvested in 1944. If enumerators obtained complete reports, the remaining 2,749 farms in this size group harvested no crops in 1944.

Value of farms (land and buildings).—The market value of the real estate represented in the farm. Enumerators were asked to obtain from the farm operator his estimate of the current market value of the farm he was operating.

Table 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 10 ACRES IN SIZE, WITH LAND IN FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1945

[Figures for regions and States in tables 12 and 16]

YEAR	UNDER 10 ACRES		UNDER 3 ACRES		3 TO 9 ACRES	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1945.....	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,252	495,595	2,664,183
1940.....	506,402	2,667,754	35,977	50,946	470,425	2,616,808
1935.....	370,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	335,258	3,005,897
1930.....	358,504	1,908,370	43,007	61,338	315,497	1,847,032
1925.....	378,535	2,096,810	15,151	22,976	363,384	2,073,634
1920.....	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,674
1910.....	235,043	(*)	18,053	(*)	317,010	(*)
1900.....	287,229	1,477,379	41,385	78,715	225,844	1,398,664
1890.....	150,194	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1880.....	139,241	(*)	4,352	(*)	134,889	(*)

*Not available.